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1999-00 UNOPA General Meeting Minutes, September

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UNOPA 1999/2000
General Meeting Minutes
September 14, 1999
Nebraska City Union

President Diane Wasser called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the first General Meeting of the 1999/2000 school year and had the new members and guests stand to be greeted. President Wasser then introduced the head table consisting of Judy Anderson, recording secretary; Carrie Meeske-Holloway, treasurer; Edie Schleiger, president-elect and program director; and guest speaker Suzanne Drew.

Minutes of the May UNOPA meeting were approved as printed in the May issue of UNOPA Notes.

Carrie Meeske-Holloway, treasurer, reported a beginning checkbook balance of \$2,180.53, with income of \$1773.07, expenses of \$1795.90, and a final balance of \$2157.70 as of 8/31/99. The certificate of deposit balance is \$3,247.67.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Wasser announced an administrative technician I position open in the Provost Office. Flyers with additional information on the position were made available.

President Wasser introduced Nelvie Lienemann as the new Hospitality Director.

The deadline for getting articles and information into UNOPA Notes is September 21.

Lola Young, director of the Foundation Funds Committee, reported that the first deadline for requesting funds is October 15, 1999. These funds are to be used for reimbursement for professional growth/educational opportunities. The maximum you can request is \$50 and includes expenses such as textbooks, workshop expenses, etc. Forms are available from Lola Young, Carrie Meeske-Holloway, Diane Wasser and other committee members.

Sandy Lineberry reported for the Parking Advisory Committee. She informed the membership of two crucial issues the committee will be voting on at their next meeting, September 24, 1999. She wanted to know the membership's feeling on these issues so she would be able to vote on their behalf.

- Issue #1: Should UNL continue these practices: 1) use Parking and Transit Services fee revenue as the sole source for financing the capitol cost of surface and garage parking; 2) use it's power to appropriate parking lots and stalls for other uses without compensating the Parking and Transit Services budget center for lost revenue and the present capitol cost of replacing those lost parking lots and stalls?

Sandy asked for a vote and the membership was opposed to the issue.

- Issue #2: Should UNL build a parking garage at 17th and R, the first component of the Master Parking Plan?

Discussion followed on who—staff, faculty, students—was going to be permitted to use the parking garage and what was going to be done with parking being lost due to construction. Improved shuttle service was brought up, but it was noted that they couldn't find enough drivers willing to work for the salary offered. Funding for the first parking garage was discussed and the possibility of receiving funding from the University Foundation was mentioned. Sandy also made note that the University has purchased the Duteau property on 17th Street.

She asked for a vote on whether to build the first parking garage regardless of the funding or whether to build it if funded in a different way. It seemed to be a split decision.

She reminded the membership that the September 24th Parking Advisory Committee meeting at the East Union, 3:00-5:00, is open to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeanne Andelt, Ways and Means director, reported on the needed participation for staffing the parking lots on football Saturdays, which is UNOPA's primary fund raiser. She noted that last year 50% of these funds were donated to the PSP Committee, but the lots were being staffed 80-90% of the time by only PSP members and very few general UNOPA members. Therefore, the Board is looking at the possibility of dividing the proceeds on a percentage basis that would correlate more directly to the percentage of time staffed by the PSP Committee members. The Board felt it was important to bring this issue to the general membership for their input. Jeanne Andelt moved **that UNOPA follow the recommendation of the Executive Board and divide the proceeds from the football parking lot with the PSP Committee according to the percentage of people staffing the time slots; for a minimum of a 50/50 split to a maximum of a 75/25 split, with 75% going to the Endowment Fund and 25% to the General Fund, for the period of one year.** The motion was seconded by Jan Wassenberg. Discussion followed noting that funds would not be transferred until the end of the football season, when final percentages were calculated. The vote was called for and the motion carried.

President Wasser requested feedback from the membership on the recent University budget cuts. She asked that people keep her informed of how the cut is affecting their office staff as well as them personally.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jan Wassenberg won \$16.50 in the 50/50 drawing, which had brought in a total of \$33.

Edie Schleiger, president-elect and program chair, then introduced Suzanne Drew, Employee Relations director, as the guest speaker. Suzanne introduced herself as the "new Faye Moulton" so people would be able to visualize her position. She has spent her first few months at UNL talking and listening to people in order to learn what the Employee Relations Office needs to do to be as effective as possible. They are using this time of change in their office as an opportunity to step back and figure out what they have been doing that is working and what are some new things they could be doing or possibly doing differently. She would like to share what she has heard, some proposals to respond to what she has heard, and to possibly get some feedback on her direction.

Her definition of employee relations is: to help people on campus work together to get work done. Sometimes things like change, conflict, miscommunication, or parking get in the way of being the most efficient employees we can be.

Three different ways to accomplish this:

Reactive: Waiting for the calls to come in from employees.

Proactive: Two strategies:

- 1) Work/family/life issue: Reaching a balance. Not taking the problems at work home with you. Lots of great programs are already available on campus through Campus Recreation, the Employee Assistance Program, and the Employee Relations Office. Suzanne wants to try and get more information to employees about these programs. She then shared a brochure called Family Care Solutions and discussed their programs on the Child Development Venture and Elder Care. Another new service is a contract with BryanLGH for sick-child daycare services. It is not cheap, \$6.00 per hour, but is a great option. You may take sick children into the daycare, or the care-giver can come to your home if you have multiple

sick children. The phone number for in-center care is 481-8099 and for in-home care it is 481-2900.

- 2) Professional Development: Discussed offering more Super Seminars and opening up more training to all employees. Again she is asking for feedback on ideas for workshops and training and handed out a list of some ideas. She wants to offer some shorter, intense workshops so it would be easier for people to leave work. The Mentoring Program has received some good feedback, but they are also looking into expanding into more of a networking program. One-on-one mentoring will still be supported if people want it.

During the question-and-answer period, Suzanne was asked about continuing the Brown Bag lunches. She stated that she has found them mostly to be a lot of work to set up for the few people who attend. They may be looking at a better selection of topics by again visiting with people and getting their ideas. She has been attending staff meetings on campus trying to find out what different offices want and need in the way of training. A sheet was also distributed with a list of topics that are available on a moments notice.

Suzanne took special note of the comment about the difficulty of finding childcare for disabled children.

There was a comment concerning the fact that employees don't feel their supervisors are willing to let them attend workshops and training sessions that take them out of the office for a number of hours. Suzanne mentioned that she hears from the "big guys" that they do want their employees to attend these type of activities. She will be offering to bring these activities to the worksite.

Professional certification was discussed pertaining to the lack of continuing education courses available at UNL. Suzanne will plan on meeting with some UNOPA members to get more input about this concern.

Suzanne shared her email address, sdrew2@unl.edu, and her phone number, 472-3106, with the group and encouraged everyone, again, to please contact her with ideas, comments and feedback.

The next General Meeting will be October 12, 1999, at the East Campus Union. Paul Sanderford, women's basketball coach, will be the guest speaker.

The meeting was adjourned by President Wasser at 1:00 p.m.

Judy Anderson, Recording Secretary

